

Remarks

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1-3, 7 and 10 were rejected, claims 4-6, 8 and 9 were objected to, and claims 11-20 were allowed. By this Amendment, claims 1, 5, 14 and 19 have been amended. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested. No new matter has been added.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 7 and 10 were rejected under § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,163,135 issued to Nakayama et al. (hereinafter "Nakayama '135"). Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite the step of "reversing polarity of a battery current when the temperature of the battery is below the predetermined value and the triggering event has occurred, wherein reversing the polarity of the battery occurs at a first slew rate for a tip-in event and a second slew rate for a terminal voltage event. Nakayama '135 does not disclose first and second slew rates as claimed. Consequently, Applicants believe that the rejection of claim 1 has been overcome. Since claims 2, 3, 7 and 10 depend on amended claim 1, these claims are believed to be allowable for the same reasons.

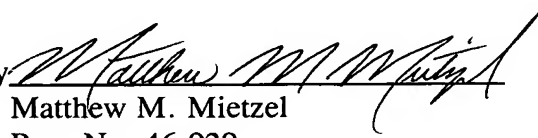
Conclusion

Applicants have made a genuine effort to respond to the Examiner's objections and rejections in advancing the prosecution of this case. Applicants believe all formal and substantive requirements for patentability have been met and that this case is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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